

- Access control, including streets and driveways, or lack thereof, along the roadway;
- Development along the road, including residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial developments;
- Number of traffic signals along the route;
- Peaking characteristics of the traffic on the road;
- Characteristics of side-roads feeding into the road; and
- Directional split of traffic or the percentages of vehicles traveling in each direction along a road at any given time.

The relationship of travel demand compared to the roadway capacity determines the level of service (LOS) of a roadway. Six levels of service identify the range of possible conditions. Designations range from LOS A, which represents the best operating conditions, to LOS F, which represents the worst operating conditions.

LOS D indicates “practical capacity” of a roadway, or the capacity at which the public begins to experience delay. The practical capacity for each roadway was developed based on the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual using the NCLOS Program. Recommended improvements and overall design of the transportation plan were based upon achieving a minimum LOS D on existing facilities and a LOS C for new facilities. Refer to Appendix E for detailed information on LOS.

Traffic Crash Analysis

Traffic crashes are often used as an indicator for locating congestion and roadway problems. Crash patterns obtained from an analysis of crash data can lead to the identification of improvements that will reduce the number of crashes. A crash analysis was performed through the Transportation Mobility and Safety Division for the Albemarle, Badin, and New London CTP for crashes occurring in the planning area between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2011. During this period, a total of 13 intersections were identified as having a high number of crashes as illustrated in Figure 4. Refer to Appendix F for a detailed crash analysis. Contact information for the Transportation Mobility and Safety Division can be found in Appendix A.